AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information communication system for performing information communication between a first system and a second system, comprising:

a first communication path that is used for information communication when a transfer size between the first system and the second system is smaller than a predetermined size and is capable of high-speed response when the transfer size is smaller than the predetermined size; and

a second communication path that is used for information communication when the transfer size between the first system and the second system is larger than the predetermined size and has a larger transfer capability than that of said first communication path when the transfer size is larger than the predetermined size;[[,]]

wherein each of the first and second systems comprises main control means for selectively using one of said first and second communication paths in accordance with a size of information subjected to information communication with a counterpart system;

an internal bus connected to said main control means;

first interface control means for sequentially performing information communication with the counterpart system through said first communication path under the control of said main control means in its system through said internal bus; and

second interface control means for performing information communication with the counterpart system through said second communication path independently of said

main control means in accordance with an instruction from said main control means in its system, wherein the information communication by the second interface control means is performed without using the internal bus.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:

at least one disk apparatus commonly accessible from the first and second systems; and

a third communication path for connecting the first and second systems to said at least one disk apparatus, wherein

when a failure occurs on a first path including said first communication path and said first interface control means or a second path including said second communication path and said second interface control means, said main control means uses said third communication path as an alternative path of the first or second path.

4. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein

the first and second systems comprise a duplex controller whose controllers each incorporate a cache memory using a mirrored cache scheme, and

said second interface control means causes a second interface control means in the counterpart system to copy data stored in the cache memory in its system to a cache memory in the counterpart system through said second communication path in accordance with an instruction from said main control means in its system.

5. (Currently Amended) An information communication system comprising:

a first communication path used for communication between a first system and a second system; and

a second communication path used for communication between the first system and the second system;[[,]]

wherein each of the first and second systems comprises means for determining one of said first communication path and said second communication path, through which data is to be transferred, on the basis of a type of data to be exchanged between the first system and the second system;

an internal bus connected to main control means;

first interface control means for sequentially performing information communication with a counterpart system through said first communication path under the control of said main control means in its system through said internal bus; and

second interface control means for performing information communication with the counterpart system through said second communication path independently of said main control means in accordance with an instruction from said main control means in its system, wherein the information communication by the second interface control means is performed without using the internal bus.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 5, wherein each of the first and second systems comprises a controller for controlling a hard disk drive.

7. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6, wherein

each of the first and second system comprises a cache memory for storing data transferred from a host apparatus,

a control signal necessary for transmitting data stored in the cache memory is transmitted to said first communication path, and

the data stored in the cache memory is transmitted to said second communication path.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[8]] 5, further comprising:

at least one disk apparatus commonly accessible from the first and second systems; and

a third communication path for connecting the first and second systems to said at least one disk apparatus, wherein

when a failure occurs on a first path including said first communication path and said first interface control means or a second path including said second communication path and said second interface control means, said main control means uses said third communication path as an alternative path of the first or second path.

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[8]] 5, wherein

the first and second systems comprise a duplex controller whose controllers each incorporate a cache memory using a mirrored cache scheme, and

said second interface control means causes a second interface control means in the counterpart system to copy data stored in the cache memory in its system to a cache memory in the counterpart system through said second communication path in accordance with an instruction from said main control means in its system.